

ASSOCIATED PRESS
10 November 1984

INTERNAL CIA CABLES AT CBS TRIAL
NEW YORK

Internal cables detailing a rift between the CIA and the military show the top CIA official in Vietnam complained that enemy troop counts were purposely underestimated but then apparently struck an agreement with Gen. William C. Westmoreland.

A series of internal cables and a memo were introduced as evidence Friday in Westmoreland's \$120 million libel suit against CBS over its January 1982 documentary, "The Uncounted Enemy: A Vietnam Deception."

A George A. Carver Jr., the top CIA official in Vietnam, sent the cables to
A CIA Director Richard Helms during a heated conference in Saigon over the politically sensitive intelligence reports.

At the start of the conference, Carver complained Westmoreland's staff was "stonewalling" and "obviously under orders."

He wrote that the "juggling of figures" by the staff and "tacit or oblique lunchtime and corridor admissions" by his officers "all point to the inescapable conclusion that Gen. Westmoreland ... has given instruction to direct order" that the estimate of Viet Cong strength would not exceed a "ceiling" of 300,000.

He said the "rationale" appeared to be that an increased estimate of enemy strength would lead to an "unacceptable level of criticism from the press."

The CBS documentary said the general imposed an artificial ceiling of 300,000 on enemy strength estimates to give the impression the war was winnable. Westmoreland, commander of U.S. troops in Vietnam, contends CBS libelously accused him of deceiving President Lyndon B. Johnson about progress of the war.

Carver's five internal CIA cables and a memo show a change took place during the September 1967 conference, in which Westmoreland's officers opposed the CIA's plan to include civilian "self-defense" troops in an official national intelligence report.

The day after complaining of "stonewalling," Carver said the talks had been "full of action and behind the scenes scurrying" in Westmoreland's command,

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but so far showed "little movement."

The next day, Carver met with Westmoreland and had dinner with Robert Komer, a representative of the president with the rank of ambassador.

Then he was able to report in a cable to Helms, "Circle now squared, chiefly as result of Westmoreland session (and perhaps Komer dinner). We now have agreed to a set of figures Westmoreland endorses. Mission seems on verge of successful conclusion."

The CBS documentary contends the CIA gave in to Westmoreland's demands not to count civilian troops.

Lawyers for Westmoreland have portrayed him as willingly accepting a CIA offer to mention the civilian forces in the narrative of an intelligence report, but not to count them.

Westmoreland lawyer Dan M. Burt also introduced as evidence a memo Carver wrote to Ellsworth A. Bunker, U.S. ambassador to South Vietnam, saying an agreement had been reached over troop estimates. The memo praised Westmoreland and his staff for "invaluable contributions."

Burt said the memo, which was sent on to Johnson, showed there was no attempt to deceive the president.